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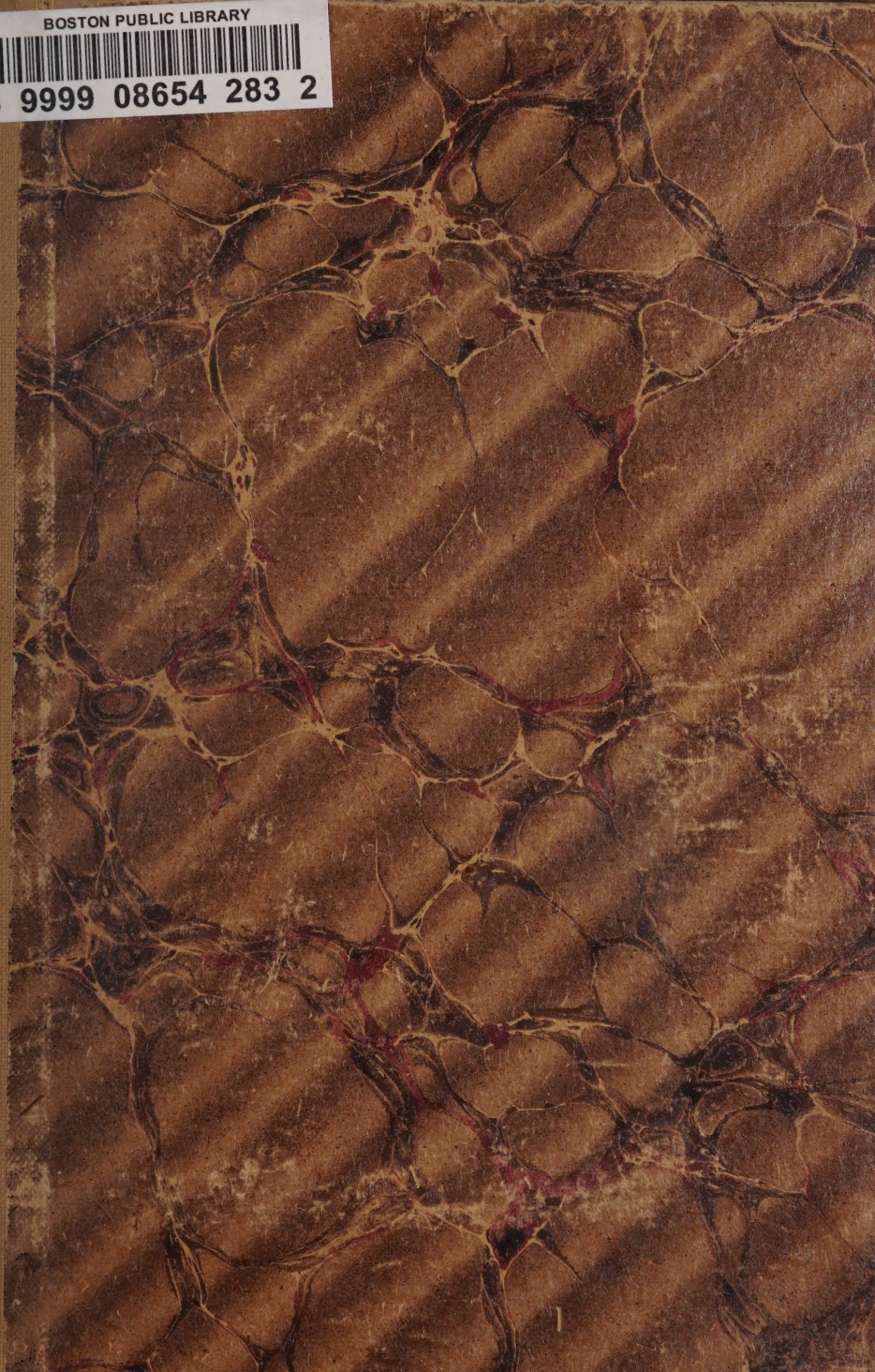

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[For General Circulation.]

"SPIRIT OF '76."

FIRST CENTENNIAL REPORT,

FINANCIAL AND STATISTICAL,

OF

75.88.353

THE BLACK VALLEY RAILROAD

CONTAINING

STAGGERING FACTS FOR TAX-PAYERS AND PHILANTHROPISTS!

BEING

AN ALARM WHISTLE

TO

All Obstructors on the Track of the Road.

BOSTON:
CONGREGATIONAL HOUSE.
1876.

CITY POST

FROM THE LATE VICE-PRESIDENT WILSON.

Rev. S. W. Hanks. *Dear Sir.*—I thank you for the Black Valley Railroad. It i great value to the Temperance cause. Your plan is just the thing for children and yo You did a grand work among them here, and we are reaping the benefit of it.

Yours truly, Henry Wil

Natick, Nov. 25, 1869.

We wish that on the walls of each Sabbath School were hung up the powerful and rific picture, the Black Valley Railroad, which maps out the whole tour of the tipler f Sippington to Topersvile, clear on to Demonland and *Destruction.—Independent, by T. L. Cuyler.*

One of the most wonderful things of the age, vividly exhibiting the way to ruin b temperance.—*Quincy (Ill.) Republican.*

One of the most emphatic temperance lectures that could possibly be addresse either eye or ear. I have seen its effects upon an intelligent audience, and am persua that it contains the largest variety of admonitions compressed into the smallest comp It would seem as if no man could look on that picture and still dare to keep his seat o B. V. R. R. train.—*Prof. J. S. Sewall, Bowdoin College.*

Admirably adapted to remind the observer of the terrible consequences of Intem ance, and thus to aid the great cause of total absteminence, especially for schools a the freed people of the South, Sabbath Schools, etc.—*Major Gen. O. O. Howard, Was ington, D. C.*

A new, cheap *Temperance Lecturer*, who eats nothing, drinks nothing, requires no ary. ***** The friends of Temperance woud do a most valuable service to the cause. cheap rate, by placing this picture in railroad depots, post offices, public schools an other public places where it could be admitted, constantly to read its fearful lessons give its much needed warning.—*Christian World.*

One of the most truthful allegorical pictures ever printed. It represents the w ruin in as vivid colors as does Bunyan portray in words the path of Christians from the of Destruction to the Celestial City. Both are progressive—the one upward, the downward. **** It is intended, by presenting a truthful picture of the downward ency of vice and its fearful and awful results, to deter the young from entering the pat the destroyer Could children see and understand this picture, and seeing is unders ing, but few would risk their lives and souls upon such a dreadful career. Hung i school-room, to be seen daily by the children, it would do more good than many ter ance lectures, however eloquently presented. Friendly advice is sometimes forgotten the picture never fades from the memory of a child. The heart may become hard, bu is an image painted on the soul which cannot easily be effaced. This picture shows t inebriate where he is and his means of escape. He may read volumes at a glance i wonderful scene. A man must be hard indeed who would pursue the fatal course once it has been so vividly portrayed. We recommend this picture to our teacher frien a most valuable aid in establishing good morals and correct habits in the minds o young.—*The Rhode Island School Master.*

Probably the most successful temperance lecture in the country is the picture o Black Valley Railroad Not a few young men who have been coquetting with the into ting cup have shuddered and drawn back as they looked upon this representation o drunkard's course. The wheels of the distillery red with the blood of its victims, the ons welcoming the train to its last station, Destruction, the darkness of the Black V the enormous serpents in the path, the strong walls of Prisonton, all tend to fix firmly i mind the terrors and dangers of intemperance. If a copy of it had a place in every h hold, it would do much to keep young men from the first step in the drunkard's care *Free Press, Northampton, Mass.*

N.B. This document having been plagiarized by the *Tiedir Bitters Company* a altered and used as to defeat the object for which it was made, can now be had in its or form at the Congregational House, Boston. Forwarded by mail.

Large colored Lithographs, 2 x 4 feet, for Sabbath Schools, Lectures, &c. Price $3.00

Chromo, 20 x 24 inches, with Sewall's diagram at bottom. Price $2.50.

In oil colors, with Dr. Sewall's diagrams at bottom, showing the effect of strong drink the human system. Price 25 cts. Plain Pictorial Poster. Price $3.00 per 100.

Four-page Pictorial Tract. Price $1.00 per 100. Leaflet Tract, four pages in colors. $1.00 per 100.

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On the left, at top, a train is leaving the region of Churches and Fountains and hovering Angels for the *Black Valley*. In the foreground the red flagmen are giving warning to travellers and helping the *Outcasts* into the *Fountainland stages* and the *Ambulances*. Forward of the saloon is the *fireman* and owner of the road. In the background, on the right, is the great *Black Valley* and the end of the road, from which the only telegram that ever comes is,

"At the last it biteth like a Serpent and stingeth like an Adder!"

Center
May 5, 1932
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[Entered according to Act of Congress, in the year 1871, by S. W. HANKS, in the office of the Librarian of Congress, at Washington.]

GREAT CENTRAL FAST ROUTE

FROM

SIPPINGTON

TO

THE BLACK VALLEY!

NO ACCIDENTS BY COLLISIONS!

AS ONLY

DOWN TRAINS

Run over the Road!

Tickets sold at all Liquor Shops!

LOOK OUT FOR PICKPOCKETS!

While Purchasing Tickets!

☞ Widows and Orphans not allowed to trouble Depot Masters by inquiring about husbands and fathers who have been killed on the road, or about missing baggage.

BLACK VALLEY RAILROAD.

QUICK TIME. ACCOMMODATING CONDUCTORS. LOW FARES.

Through Passengers will arrive at or about Midnight.

Trains start every minute *via* the following places: —

SIPPINGTON.	DELIRIUMTON.
MEDICINEVILLE.	DEMONLAND.
TIPPLETON.	HORNETS' NEST THICKET.
TOPERSVILLE.	SCREECH OWL FOREST.
DRUNKARDS' CURVE.	HORRORLAND.
ROWDYVILLE.	SERPENTLAND.
QUARRELTON.	MANIACVILLE.
RIOTVILLE.	IDIOT FLATS.
BEGGARSTOWN.	BLACK VALLEY.
WOELAND.	GREAT DESERT.
GAMBLERSVILLE.	CLOUDLAND.
FIGHTINGTON.	THUNDERLAND.
BROTHELTON.	STORM LAND.
PITFALL.	TORNADO GORGE.
ROBBERS' DEN.	FLOOD CROSSING.
PRISONTON.	DESTRUCTION.

Express Below Drunkards' Curve.

SPECIAL NOTICES.

Excursion tickets only sold at Sippington. Through tickets furnished at stations below.

From Drunkards' Curve the Train is an Express,—all taking in being done above that station, and principally of respectable people. Passengers for all the places beyond are thrown out without stopping the trains.

Passengers are not allowed to stand upon the platform, or to put their heads out of the windows below Rowdyville, the Corporation not wishing to alarm persons who are not patrons of the Road.

Persons desiring to leave the Train will find the Fountain Land Stages at Drunkards' Curve and all the stations above this, ready to convey them free to any of the villages upon the Crystal Stream River. Below Drunkards' Curve Ambulances will be used.

Persons living in the vicinity of this Road must "look out for the engine," as no bell is rung or brakeman employed below Drunkards' Curve, and the Company disclaim all responsibility for damages.

All Baggage at the risk of the owners. Widows and orphans in pursuit of baggage lost by friends on this Road are informed that the Corporation will adhere strictly to the usages of the Road, and positively will not restore lost baggage.

Passengers in the sleeping cars, especially Stockholders, will be waked up at Screech Owl Forest, Thunderland, and at the end of the Road.

REPORT.

Look out for the Engine when the Bell Rings.

As the increasing prosperity of this Road seems to be calling forth new activities in opposition to its business, even leading its opposers into contriving methods for throwing its trains from the track, to the great annoyance of stockholders and patrons, it is deemed expedient to put forth

A Statement of the Resources and Prospects of the Road,

such as will show to those who are working against it the fruitlessness of their labors, and perhaps direct their activities towards more practical objects.

The financial results of the business of the Road are so remarkable that they will not fail to arrest attention as showing the good-will of the community towards the business, and the readiness of the country to foster it by patronage as well as by appropriate legislation. The statements here made are taken mainly from *official Census Reports of the Government, and can be easily verified.*

Stimulating Reading for People out of Business.

From these Reports it appears that the annual receipts of the *Black Valley Railroad* are $735¾ MILLIONS, being $110 MILLIONS, more than the receipts of all the other railroads together.

This is $35 MILLIONS more than the average annual expenses of the late war.

It is $640 MILLIONS more than is paid to the 221,000 teachers employed in 142,000 Schools of the country.

It is $729 MILLIONS more annually than the salaries of the 84,000 clergymen of the United States.

It is $355 MILLIONS more than the cost of all wearing apparel, including shoes and hats.

It is only $60 MILLIONS less than is paid to the 2,000,000 operatives in all the manufactories of the country.

It is twice as much as the value of all the church property.

It is $478 MILLIONS more than is paid to 250,000 men employed in the mining industries of the country, including gold, silver, coal, iron, lead, oil, etc.

It is $688 MILLIONS more than the contributions of all the churches to benevolent objects.

It is $20 MILLIONS more than the cost of all the food preparations sold in the markets of the country.

If expended for flour it would purchase 120 MILLIONS of barrels, which would load 12 MILLIONS of teams, and furnish three barrels to every man, woman, and child.

If divided among families of five persons to each family and put to interest ten years, it would give to every family a house worth $1,000.

If expended for furniture, clothing, shoes, hats, and food, it would start up every branch of business into active operation, and give every man and woman constant and profitable employment.

In six years it would amount to the assessed value of all the personal property, and in thirteen years to the assessed value of all the real estate in the country.*

(*Smoking Cars off the Track* (of this Report),

Also the Unlicensed Trains.)

This estimate of the receipts of the *Black Valley Railroad* does not include the underground branches, which pay no taxes, or the Invalid trains from *Medicineville*, or the extra expense of the *Smoking Cars*, which would probably double the reported receipts.

A Frightful Political Ring — of the Bell.

(*Down Brakes, or Break Down — Which?*)

This Road has 168,000 licensed and 107,000 unlicensed *depots*, and employs 550,000 men in the different branches of its business. It can give essential aid to either of the great political parties, and send voters to the polls, free of expense, on all its trains. By the use of its depots as recruiting places, and the united co-operation of all its employees, the nation can be taken on board, and the government find itself powerless in the application of every system of *brakes*.

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* See "Our Wasted Resources." National Temperance Society.

Trains Telescoped Retrospectively and Centennially. — Terrible Loss of Property. — Three Millions of Lives Lost.

On the basis of the facts collected from the documents of the government, it appears that the money paid to the Black Valley Road during the past 100 years would build and equip six lines of railroad from the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean, erect and endow a university at $10,000,000 in every State, erect a $5,000 school-house for every 200 inhabitants, build a $25,000 meeting-house for every 2,000 inhabitants, pay the national debt, and, with the rest of the money at interest, support a teacher for every 100 inhabitants of the country.

In addition to these facts relating to the financial prosperity of the Road, we would call attention to the

Improved Condition of Public Sentiment

in regard to the character of its business. New light is dawning, and opposition is giving way. *Mr. Conscience*, the old flagman, who has caused so much disturbance to stockholders and travellers, has found that the roar of the trains so drowns his voice that he cannot make himself heard. The steam of the engines, which seems to have affected the condition of the atmosphere of the whole valley through which the trains run, has also had a quieting effect upon him, so that it is now confidently presumed that travellers and friends of the road will not be disturbed any more by him. Besides the loss of his voice and energy,

his erectness is gone, caused by having been whirled about and thrown down by the wind of the lightning trains, producing dizziness, weakness, and curvature of the spinal column. His sight, too, is much impaired, so that he cannot distinguish between a *Market House* and a *Depot*. This injury to his eyes, it is said, has been caused by grief at reading in a leading family paper that the example of the world's great Reformer did not enforce his admonitions; which so affected him, being already heart-sick and faint at the sights and sounds of the bleeding and dying Outcasts along the track of the Road, and the wailings of fathers and mothers and widows and orphans looking for dear ones among the piles of the dead, that everything since has looked dark to him. This, in addition to the recent legalizing of the Road, so making its business respectable and honorable, and even enticing to persons wishing to engage in a profitable employment, has quite enervated the old flagman, and the prediction that a whirlwind, accompanied with thunder and lightning and a flood, is at hand, and will purify the atmosphere of the Black Valley and restore him to his wonted energy and his old occupation, is regarded as the fiction of a diseased imagination.

Improved Condition of the Principal Places on the Road.

At *Sippington* there is a vast increase of patronage. The old depot, which was battered and defaced by the stones which had been thrown at it by fanatics, and injured by a flood which had damaged its underpinnings, has been repaired and enlarged. It is estimated that not less than

10,000,000 of people take occasional and frequent excursion tickets at this depot, a large proportion of whom finally settle down somewhere in the *Black Valley Country*.

At *Medicineville* great improvements have been made. The depot is much enlarged, and the Invalid Trains are attracting immense crowds of travellers. The increasing business at this place is giving profitable employment to a large population, who have settled in elegant houses around the depot, having accumulated large fortunes.*

Prisonton is now so crowded that many travellers who are flung out here cannot get accommodations, and so tramp on to find more business in their line farther along on the Road.

At *Fightington* there is a state of unusual activity, and the people are having lively times, notwithstanding the dulness of business in other departments. The place is becoming an excellent market for lint and bandages and such like productions of skill not demanded in times of general peace. The legal business is also flourishing.

At *Beggarstown* the population is rapidly increasing, large numbers being so dropped from the Road as to make a permanent settlement in the place, or the immediate vicinity. The rapid growth of this place is affording an interesting field for Christian activity, and it is believed that Christian people, who are not helping to stop the trains, can find no more suitable locality for developing their Christian energies, or one that promises a more

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* See advertisement of Vinegar Bitters.

abundant and constant supply of objects calculated to arouse the sympathies and develop the graces of a Christian people.

In addition to the other good things which the people of this place are doing in the way of improving the civilization of the age, they are setting an excellent example of *economy* in food, fuel, light, and the use of brooms instead of long dresses in sweeping the streets.

Maniacville is in a condition of unusual prosperity. Most of the inhabitants are in a state of great mental activity, as the following scrap of their literature will show: —

A Remarkable Dream.

"I dreamed, and lo! I stood upon a high hill, looking down into the great *Black Valley*, as the trains of the great *Road* went roaring and thundering by. While I stood looking and listening and trembling, suddenly a multitude of angels seemed to fill the air. In the hand of each of these heavenly visitants were flags, some white and some red, which they waved in the air as the trains came swiftly towards them. As no heed seemed to be given to their signals, they dropped their wings and seemed to stand upon the ground. Soon they began to tear up great trees like the cedars of Lebanon, and to hurl them upon the track. Then School-houses and Meeting-houses were piled upon the track of the road, until it seemed impossible for the trains to pass. While looking upon this labor of the angels, and admiring the determination and energy of their proceedings, suddenly I heard

the screaming of an engine which seemed to make the earth tremble. I looked, and lo! in a great cloud of dust and smoke, a train dashed in sight. Astride the engine was a monster out of whose mouth poured a stream of flame and smoke; his eyes were like balls of fire, and defiance seemed to be on his countenance. Onward with the speed of lightning came the train. When it struck the Obstacles which the celestial visitants had placed upon the track, they were tossed high up into the air, and a cloud of upset meeting-houses and school-houses seemed to be flying overhead, while the train dashed on as if fastened to a thunderbolt, and a great yell went up as if the *Engineer* and all the passengers in the train had united their voices in one general scream, at which I awoke. It was a dream, "but not all a dream."

A Slander Switched Off the Track.

The story that has been extensively and industriously circulated — that travellers lose all their baggage and valuables at the Flood Crossing Station — is a falsehood, the conductors having a special care for all travellers' baggage before arriving at that Station. Moreover, *The Travellers' Insurance Company* assume all risks at this point, and as there is commonly much anxiety and confusion, travellers usually forget their baggage. At this crossing, too, the weather is commonly stormy and the fog thick, and the *steamboats* provided by the Insurance Company for carrying travellers across, are difficult of navigation, on account of the disturbance of the compass, occasioned, it is

said, by the vicinity of *furnaces on the other side*, credibly reported to be owned by the projector and proprietor of the Great Black Valley Road. *The Balloons*, too, which the company sometimes use in taking travellers over, do not rise easily, on account of the effect of the atmosphere on the *gas*. On these accounts travellers are not careful to look after their baggage; and one fact, of itself sufficient to refute all misrepresentations on this subject, is, *that not one traveller has ever returned to claim damage for lost baggage.*

A RIDE ON THE BLACK VALLEY RAILROAD.

BY REV. I. N. TARBOX, D. D.

You have heard of the ride of John Gilpin,
That captain so jocund and gay,
How he rode down to Edmonton village,
In a very remarkable way.

You have heard of the ride of Mazeppa,
Bound fast to his wing-footed steed,
How he coursed through the fields and the forests,
At a very remarkable speed.

But I sing of a trip more exciting,
In a song which I cannot restrain,
Of a ride down the Black Valley Railroad,
Of a ride on the Black Valley train.

The setting-out place for the journey,
Is Sippington station, I think,
Where the engines for water take whiskey,
And the people take — something to drink.

From collisions you need fear no danger,
No trains are ever run back,
They all go one way — to perdition,
Provided they keep on the track.

By the time we reach Medicine Village,
The passengers find themselves sick,
Have leg-ache, or back-ache, or head-ache,
Or some ache that strikes to the quick.

We are pious and hold by the Scripture,
With Paul the Apostle agree
To take "wine" instead of much "water,"
For our "often infirmity."

In fact, we improve on the reading
By just a slight change in the text.
Say "often," where the Scripture says "little,"
And leave "little" for what may come next.

We break up at Tippleton Station,
To try and get rid of our pain;
At Topersville also we tarry,
And do the same over again.

Our spirits indeed may be willing,
But very weak is the flesh,
So oft as we stop for five minutes,
We use all the time to refresh.

Now we come to the great central station,
The last stopping-place on the line,
Drunkards' Curve, where is kept the chief storehouse
Of rum, whiskey, brandy, and wine.

From this place on to Destruction
The train makes no break or delay,
And those who may wish to stop sooner
Are kindly thrown out by the way.

A full supply of bad whiskey
For our engine is taken in here,
And a queer-looking fellow from Hades
Steps on for our engineer.

From Drunkards' Curve to Destruction
The train is strictly express,
And will not be slowed or halted
For any red flag of distress.

And so, when all things are ready,
From Drunkards' Curve we set out.
Let me give you some flying glimpses
Of the places along the route.

First Rowdyville claims our attention,
Then Quarrelton comes into view,
Then Riotville breaks on the vision,
And the filthy Beggarstown too.

As we rush by the village of Woeland,
Three wretches are thrown from the train;
We can see them rolled over and over,
Through the darkness, the mud, and the rain.

Our engineer chuckles and dances
In the wild, lurid flashes he throws.
Hotter blaze the red fires of his furnace,
As on into blackness he goes.

Oh, the sounds that we hear in the darkness, —
The laughter and crying and groans,
The ravings of anger and madness,
The sobbings and pitiful moans!

For now we have entered the regions
Where all things horrible dwell,
Where the shadows are peopled with goblins,
With the fiends and the furies of hell.

In this deep and Stygian darkness
Lost spirits have made their abode;
It is plain, we are near to Destruction,
Very near to the end of the road.

Would you like, my young friends, to take passage
To this region of horror and pain?
Here stretches the Black Valley Railroad,
And here stands the Black Valley train.

Important to Stockholders and Patrons

OF THE

BLACK VALLEY ROAD.

As the "signs of the times" indicate a coming flood, which is likely to do serious damage to the above Road, water having risen into many of the Depots, and is still rising, Stockholders will find this a favorable time for disposing of their interest in the Road, and investing in the Great Fountainland Water Company, now just commencing to open the sluice-ways of the great

TEMPLELAND RESERVOIR.

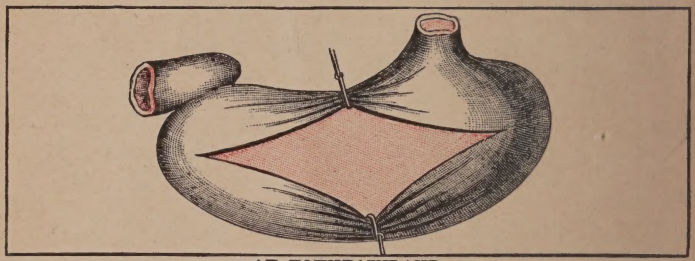
See Ezekiel, xvii. Rev. xxii, 1, 2. Matt. vii, 26, 27, etc.

Travellers also will find this a good time to leave the road for the Fountainland Country, where the above Company is offering alluring inducements as well as free transportation to all immigrants.

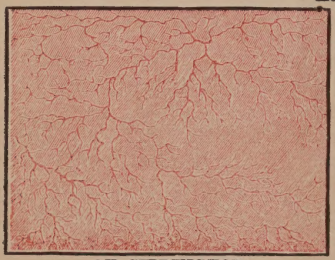
See *Black Valley Country*, with an account of the Introduction of Water. 200 pages, by S. W. Hanks. Cong. Pub. Soc., Boston.

DR. THOMAS SEWALL'S DIAGRAMS

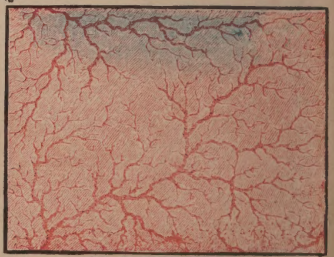
Showing the internal condition of Travellers



AT FOUNTAINLAND.
Healthy.



AT SIPPINGTON.
Inflamed.



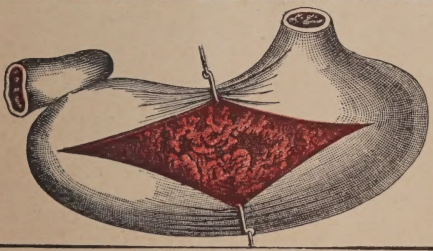
AT TOPERSVILLE.
Poison indicated.

OF THE HUMAN STOMACH,

At different places in the "Black Valley Country."

AT DRUNKARD'S CURVE.
Diseased.

AT DELIRIUMTON.
Blood coagulated.



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